

HANSSON et al
Serial No. 09/467,018

Atty Dkt: 2380-140
Art Unit: 2142

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reexamination of the captioned application is respectfully requested.

A. SUMMARY OF THIS AMENDMENT

By the current amendment, Applicants basically:

1. Editorially amend the specification.
2. Thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 2 -7, 9 – 13, and 14 – 20¹.
3. Amend independent claim 8 (see Section C, infra).
4. Add new independent claims 21 and 22 (see Section C, infra).
5. Respectfully traverse all prior art rejections (see Section D, infra).
6. Supply Replacement Sheets for Figs. 1 and 2 as attachments to this Amendment (see Section B, infra).

B. REPLACEMENT (DRAWING) SHEETS

Replacement Sheets for Figs. 1 and 2 are provided as attachments to this Amendment. In Fig. 1 the reference numeral 20 has been added. The Replacement Sheets for Fig. 2 corrects the numbering of the cluster support function (50) and the internet protocol (IP) handler (100). Both of these corrections are in response to the second enumerated paragraph of the Office Action.

¹ Claims 2, 9 and 15 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 3-7, 10-13 and 15-20 were objected to by virtue of dependency (see enumerated paragraph 4 of the Office Action).

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C. THE CLAIM AMENDMENTS AND NEW CLAIMS

Independent method claim 8 has been amended to track more closely the verbiage of independent claim 1 and to stress the distributed nature of the IP handler function.

New independent claims 21 and 22 resemble original claims 1 and 14, but further include (as the last three paragraphs) limitations describing in more detail the distributed nature of the Internet Protocol (IP) handler.

D. PATENTABILITY OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1, 8 and 14 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,266,335 to Bhaskaran (see enumerated paragraph 6 of the Office Action). All prior art rejections are respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Independent claims 1, 8, 14, 21, and 22 all essentially require that an Internet Protocol (IP) handler (function) be distributed throughout a cluster of processors (the plural processors having a same IP address) so as to forward IP frames received from outside the platform on any of plural IP interfaces and addressed to the same IP address to a correct one of the plural processors executing an IP software application. Among other things, the distributed nature of the claimed Internet Protocol (IP) handler is not taught or suggested by U.S. Patent 6,266,335 to Bhaskaran. Nor does the Office Action even make such an allegation.

U.S. Patent 6,266,335 to Bhaskaran uses network flow switch 205 to route packets among IP servers 210, 220, 230, 240 and 250 on the one hand, and network routers 260, 270, and 280 on the other hand (col. 5, lines 47+). Network flow switch 205 appears to be a separate, stand-alone switch and thus is not distributed among the IP servers 210, 220, 230, 240 and 250 comprising Bhaskaran's alleged cluster. The network

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flow switch 205 is described in more detail, e.g., in col. 6, lines 64+. Several possible hardware implementations of network flow switch 205 are described in Figs. 5A – 5C and col. 8, line 66 – col. 11, line 19. Applicants are unable to find in U.S. Patent 6,266,335 to Bhaskaran any teaching or suggestion of the claimed distribution of the IP handling function.

In view of the foregoing, the Examiner has ample bases for withdrawing all prior art rejections and allowing all claims.

E. MISCELLANEOUS

In view of the foregoing and other considerations, all claims are deemed in condition for allowance. A formal indication of allowability is earnestly solicited.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge the undersigned's deposit account #14-1140 in whatever amount is necessary for entry of these papers and the continued pendency of the captioned application.

Should the Examiner feel that an interview with the undersigned would facilitate allowance of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,
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